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169 Wildflower Drive
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
July 25, 2004

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 W. 7th Avenue, #1
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Dear Sir,

001
Alternatives

I feel the dEIS for the Northeast planning area is seriously deficient in many ways. I recognize that some development will take place, but there must be a balance, and that balance was arrived at in the 1998 study, and I do not feel any changes need to take place. I favor Alternative A, which encompasses the 1998 study.

002
Alternatives

There needs to be a balance of protections and those are lacking in Alternative B, which increases development, and Alternative C which essentially opens everything up for exploitation without meaningful safeguards.

003
Alternatives

The Teshekpuk Lake Area is a very unique and special area, vital to waterfowl, and the Teshekpuk caribou herd. It is also an area of subsistence resources for the native peoples. It is a major wetlands for migrating waterfowl. This area was noted decades ago as being a very special and vital part of the landscape for the interconnected species. This area needs to remain protected. Areas provided for development tend to be areas denied for access to others, including native peoples.

4

I have looked over many parts of proposals for development in the northeast area, and referenced that with my many trips to Alaska in the coastal plains and interior rivers, which will now number twelve trips. What is proposed would have significant long term negative impact on the wildlife of that area and I find some of rationale for development lacking in common sense arguments. Not only lacking, but blind to the effects.

005
Cumulative

The National Academy of Sciences recently released a report on the effects of development of oil resources in northern Alaska. They found real and serious negative impacts on wildlife.

6

A colleague of mine recently returned from a journey up to Deadhorse. He remarked what an industrial wasteland Prudhole Bay is.

7

In less than a week, I will be returning to Alaska to do nearly three weeks of wilderness backpacking on the coastal plain, and perhaps more to the point of this region, on the Colville River, to include the Colville Special area. In 2000, I was also in that same area of the Colville,

but in an earlier part of the season, when the raptor young had yet to fledge. Now, they will have fledged. The beauty and grandeur of the Colville River is such that the impacts of development will be serious and long lasting. Along the river were a number of outposts that readily marred the unbroken horizon. In going up to one, it was being used as a subsistence outpost and was now a garbage dump. The nature of the structure would suggest it was used in the exploration along the Colville that had previously been done.

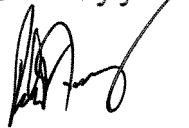
008
Gravel

The vast gravel bars, if used for their gravel in road building, would have a massive impact on the river. This is an area that a footprint needs to be very gentle. Oil exploration and development is not a gentle footprint.

009
Alternatives

I support Alternative A, as that was what was proposed after a serious study in 1998, and I do not feel things have changed since.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Franz', with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Robert Franz